

## Claims

1. A method for operating industrial installations, in particular production facilities, comprising the following  
5 steps:
  - a) identify those technical measurement variables which co-determine the value retention of a real installation (1),
  - b) record the actual status of this installation (1) by measurement of the identified measurement variables,
- 10 c) specify a benchmark (25),
  - d) compare the actual status of the real installation (1) with the specified benchmark in order to determine at least one measurement variable whose change in value would increase the value retention of the installation,
- 15 e) identify structural measures to improve the installation (1) by means of which the value of the at least one measurement variable from step e) will be changed while the value retention of the installation is increased,
- f) carry out the structural measures.

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2. The method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** for the purpose of specifying a benchmark, actual statuses are recorded on installations which are similar compared to the installation to be assessed.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 2, **characterized in that** the similar installations are existing installations, or installations currently in the building phase.

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4. The method as claimed in claim 2, **characterized in that** for the purpose of specifying the benchmark, installation-specific key components (8) and/or installation-relevant innovations are systematically recorded.

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5. The method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** for the purpose of specifying the benchmark, actual statuses and significant technical trends

- in the factor markets (4) relevant to the installation,
- in the product markets (5) relevant to the installation,
- and in the technological environment of the installation,

are recorded.

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6. The method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** at least one of the steps a) to f) is carried out by external service providers.

10 7. The method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** the actual status of the installation according to steps a), b) and d) is determined at least in part with the aid of software.

15 8. The method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** steps a) to d) are carried out much more frequently than steps e) and f).

9. The method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** 20 after the structural measures have been identified it is determined quantitatively by how much the value retention of the installation will increase as a result of the measures.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** 25 the structural measures are carried out when the actual status of the installation is at least as good as its set-point status.

11. A system for operating industrial installations,  
30 a) having means (26, 13, 15) for identifying those technical measurement variables which co-determine the value retention of a real installation (1),  
b) having means (30, 35, 32, 34) for inputting measured values relating to the identified measurement variables,  
35 c) having means (26, 13, 15) for comparing the actual status of the installation (1) with a benchmark (25) for the purpose of determining at least one measurement variable

whose change in value would increase the value retention of the installation.

12. The system as claimed in claim 11, **characterized in that** 5 second identification means (29, 13) are provided by means of which structural measures to improve the installation can be identified by means of which the value of the at least one measurement variable will be changed while the value retention of the installation is increased.

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13. System as claimed in claim 12, **characterized in that** evaluation means (29, 13) are provided by means of which it can be quantitatively determined by how much the value retention of the installation will increase as a result of the 15 structural measure.

14. A computer program for operating industrial installations, in particular production facilities, comprising the following steps:  
20 a) identify those technical measurement variables which co-determine the value retention of a real installation (1),  
b) interrogate measured values relating to the identified measurement variables,  
c) compare the actual statuses of the installation (1) with a 25 benchmark (25) for the purpose of determining at least one measurement variable whose change in value would increase the value retention of the installation.

15. The computer program as claimed in claim 14, **characterized in that** structural measures to improve the installation are identified by means of which the value of the at least one measurement variable will be changed while the value retention of the installation is increased.

35 16. The computer program as claimed in claim 15, **characterized in that** it is quantitatively established by how much the value retention of the installation will increase as a result

of the structural measure.

17. A computer program product which can be loaded directly into the internal memory of a digital computer and comprises  
5 sections of software code by means of which the steps according to one of the claims 14 to 16 are executed when the product runs on a computer.
18. The computer program product as claimed in claim 17, embodied on a data medium, stored in a computer memory (18, 19) or transferred by means of an electrical carrier signal.  
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